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A GODLY ⁵²⁹
SERMON

OF
PETER's Repentance,
After he had Denyed his
Lord and Master Jesus Christ, as it is
in his Repentance, *He wept bitterly
for his Sins.*

The Fourteenth Edition, Corrected and En-
larged, and set forth for the good of all
those that truly fear God. By a Godly
Pastor.

Mat. 26. 73. *And Peter remembred the words
of Jesus, which he said; Before the Cock crow
twice, thou shalt deny me thrice: so he went
out and wept bitterly.*

Mat. 5. 4. *Blessed are ye that mourn, for ye
shall rejoyce.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. Wright, J. Clarke, W. Thackeray,
and T. Passenger. 1682.

A-GODLY
SERMON

After he had Deny'd his
Lord and Master Jesus Christ as in is
this Repentance, He now sheweth
his true Heart

For though he had deny'd God and his
Lord, and yet he loveth God of all
things that he loveth, God, his Godly

and holy Father, for the world
to come, he loveth his Father, and
his Father loveth him, and the Father
will give him whatsoever he shall
ask, because he loveth his Father
that sent him into the world, to do
his will.

Printed for J. Clarke W. Thackeray
and T. M. Allen, 1832.

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Mark 14. 68, 70.

But he denyed, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest; and he went out into the Porch, and the Cock crew, and he denyed it again. And a little after they that stood by, said again to Peter, surely thou art one of them, for thou art a *Gallilean*, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

PE T E R is called Simon, an obedient hearer, he is also called Peter, confident and strong in faith, like a Rock unmoveable; Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock will I build my Church, that the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it, *Matth. 14. 18.* He was penitent, the words now read unto you do prove the same; for after he had sinned he went out: That every Christian were qualified like Peter, those that crave repentance, and faith, and obedience, are better welcome to God, than the most presents given by the Wise men unto Christ, *Matth. 2. 1* precious Odoz was not so much accepted as Peters Repentance. Gold, frankincense, and Myrrh, are not so precious

as Peters Repentance to Godward; for he wept bitterly for denying his Lord and Master Jesus Christ, Mat. 14. 71. But he began to curse and swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. So soon as he had learned to lye, he had learned to swear, they are inseparable Companions, and I may say to my brethren, that always meet together in the sinful society. We never read of Peter's swearing any where else, yet here upon a sudden oaths and curses shewed themselves. No sooner Ham spyed Noahs nakedness, Gen. 9. 22. Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be. So he went out; This Text affords us three leuel Notes, being very remarkable in Peter's Repentance. 1. Remembrance of Sin. 2. Remorse of Sin. 3. Sorrow for Sin. All of which ought to accompany a Godly and sincere Convert, in turning from his evil ways.

Thus having found out the Myne; let us now dig for the Treasure: so he went out: he was careless till the clock warned him, thereby learning that the first step to Repentance is the remembrance of sin, and therefore David saith, Psal. 51. 3. My sins are before me. Moses charg'd the people to remember their sins and there he put them in remembrance; how oft they provoked the Lord by that means, calling

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calling them to Repentance, Deut. 9. 7. He went out; another step of Peters Repentance he first weighed his sin, mark Noah: and in the meditation hereof, not only naked and bare, but he was awaked from his former drowsiness and slumber of sin. He went out. Wherein observe the effectual operation of Gods Spirit in the Children of God, after we have sinned spiritually, the Grace of God calleth us home again, and suffereth us not to rest like the Dove that was sent from Noah, found no rest, Gen. 8. 9. Nor can Peter now find any rest till he had found Christ by Repentance, whom he had lost by denial: Peter's sin was great, it was no small bait that Satan laid in his way, for great is the danger; for what greater advantage could Satan else have wished than this, had not the assisting hand of Gods mercies laid him up after his fall, for his own glory, and to the unspeakable comfort of the Church, who though they fall, can never fall away, for the promise of God standeth sure, and with this Seal, God knoweth who are his. Our Saviour Christ saith, Of those whom thou hast given me, I have lost none of them, save the Son of perdition, John 17. 12. He went out as Isaac went out into the field to pray, Gen. 24. 63. So Peter went out to meditate and consider what he had done,

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Luke 22. 92. Peter went out and wept bitterly; the faithful soul when it is desirous to enter into any such Holy consolation, or conference, covets to be alone, like Christ in the Desert, Mat. 4. 1. Jacob besting alone wrestled with the Angel, and prevailed for a blessing, Gen. 32. 24. Jonah went out of the City of Nineve to mourn over it, as it is in Jonah 1. Now Jonah Preached in Nineve, that within forty days it should be destroyed, and they repented, Moses was bid to pull off his Shoes when he pass over the flaming bush, Exod. 3. 5. So we must put off our shoes of Carnality, and go out from our selves, as the Adder casteth his slough, if we will tread upon Holy Ground, and press to come where God is. Peter, so long as he staid at the High Priests Hall among the enemies of Christ, he became as one of them, and had quite forgotten that Christ was his Master, or he was solitary, and so denied, whom a little before he promised to dye for.

What have I done miserable Man that I am! how dangerously am I fallen in denying him the Lord of Life, and my Lord! I a rebellious Sinner, to deny him that framed me, and by his death redeemed me: and was I so wicked! if all the world were offended, yet would not I be offended; yea, I was ready to lay down my life for Christ my Lord, and yet before

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When the Cock crew twice, I had denyed him
three times, Mat. 26. 33. O perswaded wretch
that I am! how heavily have I transgressed my
duty, by denying him that dyed for me? I that
thought my faith strong enough to encounter
with the whole world, have most shamefully
sinned a woman, and the weaker vessel, to
maintenance me; is not this to be offended?
is not this to give my life to my Master? Nay,
is not this to forsake him quite, and to joyne
with the wicked? I denyed him whom my soul
loved best: for which my name deserves to go
with the brand upon it, as that of Jeroboam
went with his train; Peter confesseth his train
of sins, and Jeroboam by name cannot only
be mentioned, but his sins must be likewise
be numbered, Jeroboam goes with his train,
Jeroboam that made Israel to sin. And Pe-
ter desires to have his train too, Peter that de-
nyed his Master: from henceforth Peter re-
penteth him of his famous sins he committed
in denying his Lord and Master Jesus
Christ.

Let us all repent with Peter, that God may
give us the earnest of his grace in our hearts
by the word: St. Paul saith, Heb. 6. 6. He that
hath crucified the Son of God again;
as did Peter, by denying his Lord and Master.
Peter's faith was wavering faith, had not God
looked

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looked again upon him with the eyes of his mercy and tender compassion, he assured that Peter had fallen from light to utter darkness and damnation, had he not truly repented with an unfeigned repentance, Psal. 71. 9. Call me not away in time of age, forsake me not when my strength faileth me. Here we may see how the Prophet cries to God for mercy, as Peter did weep and cry with a most exceeding weeping, for denying his Lord and Master. Gen. 27. 31. And when *Esau* heard the words of his Father, he cryed with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his Father, bless me, even me also. O my Father. These are the words of *Esau* the eldest Son of *Isaac*, but the youngest in faith to Godward. Blessed be thou who art the Triumphant Conquerer of hell, Hosea 13. 14. the vanquisher of the Devil, Mat. 4. 10. the Conquerer Destroyer of Death, 1 Cor. 15. 55. and redeemer of them that were in darkness and in the shadow of Death, Luke 17. All ye that be thirsty, come unto the water, and you that have neither Gold nor Silver, come and receive all these precious Treasures free without paying any thing, Isa. 54. 5. This is the water of Life, which springes out of the everlasting Rock, the Rock of defence to all that helieve in Christ our Lord, who is the enduring Rock of our Salvation

in this world, and in the world to come.

But now Peter wept for his sins, and confessed his faults before God, by repenting of his sinful actions which he had committed against God; he was taken for one of evil behaviour, and was one that kept evil company; for they had received sinners, and eaten with them, *Mat. 11. 19.* This is the lowliness and the meekness of our Lord and blessed Redeemer, who hath redeemed us from all evil, and looked upon Peter in mercy and love: for if Christ had not called Peter by Repentance, Peter had been a damned creature for falling into so great a sin: for he did utterly deny Christ by lying and swearing, which are great sins; and without repentance cannot be forgiven: Christ hath commanded us to repent, *Mat. 3. 2.* saying, Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand: And again, Verse 17. At that time Jesus began to Preach, and to say, Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

My Brethren, here you may see how these places of Scripture agree in one point, so must our minds be agreeable to the will of God; that we may walk in the light while we have light, and to walk in the Laws and Commandments of the most high God, *Mat. 5. 16.* Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. And

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And let us make a good end by repentance. I heard a voice from Heaven, saying, blessed are they that dye in the Lord, henceforth, even so saith the Spirit, that they rest from their Labours and Sorrows, and their works shall follow them, Rev. 14. 13. Here we may see that God blesteth them that fear him, even unto death, that he might give them eternal life. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in Glory. This is the hope of the Saints, and all the Elect people of God, *Mat. 10. 22.* He that endureth to the end shall be saved, *Rev. 2. 10.* Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a Crown of life. Peter was faithful unto death, by repenting him of his sins. And Peter went out and wept bitterly: So Peter repented with a faithful repentance: Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be Baptized every one of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the Remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. This Peter it was that denyed Christ, but now doth plainly declare him to all people. There is the unworthiness of those that look back by sin, and on the other side. No man that putteth his hand to the Plow and looketh back, is fit for the Kingdom of God, *Luke 9. 62.* But Peter looked back by denying his Lord

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our Master Jesus Christ: it is a most certain
 truth, that God hath given unto us eternal life:
 which is as certain, that this life is in his
 Son; and in the next verse, He that hath the
 Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son,
 hath not life, 1 John 5. 11, 12. Now we may
 be blessed a thing it is to have the Son of
 God in our hearts, by fasting, and Prayers, and
 good, and Truth: He that hath truth, hath
 eternal life evermore in the Kingdom of
 Heaven. The Prophet David's Prayer or
 Supplicat[i]on, is thus termed; Teach us O
 Lord, to number our days, that we may ap-
 ply our hearts to Wisdom, psal. 90. 12. Pe-
 ter wept, because of the weight of grief and sor-
 row in denying his Lord and Master Jesus
 Christ, which made him, doing that deed, say;
 Troubles have compassed me round about,
 my heart is vexed and troubled, and my sins
 are always before mine eyes, which do grie-
 vously torment my conscience, and labour to
 bring me down to Hell; there is no peace for
 me for the terror of the Lord, I refuse to be com-
 forted, I am troubled, and my Spirit doth
 afflict me, I see no place whereunto I may fly
 and seek a Remedy for my sins. But Peter
 loved his Master in fear. Peter then denied a-
 gain, and immediately the Cock crew: Then
 saw the Damosel that kept the door, unto
 Peter,

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Peter, Art thou not also one of this Man's Disciples? He said, I am not, but denyed, saying, I am not the man, nor understand I what thou sayest: And he went out into the Porch, and the Cock crew, but he began to curse and swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. When Peter had gotten some feeling in his Conscience, he went out and wept bitterly, 1 Cor. 15. 35. Awake to Righteousness, and sin not, for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this unto your shame, Ezek. 16. 63. That thou mayest remember, and be ashamed, and never open thy mouth more.

Thus Peter is rejected for his swearing and lying, as it is, Revel. 21. 27. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lye. When Satan had tempted Peter to swear, he tempted him to lye: if Peter had not speedily repented, he had been an undone Man; but we read that Christ had mercy upon him, and called him from the error of his ways, & from that sinful deed.

Repentance is a turning to men, we must not be ashamed to acknowledge our faults, one to another, Jam. 5. 16. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, and in so doing men may know that you are my

Disciples.

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Disciples: So that we ought to pray for one another; and on the contrary, we had rather curse one another; but woe unto them that do so, for hell fire is prepared for the torment of their Souls, being in the Gulph of woe, everlastingly tormented world without end, such torment that Man cannot express: for if men would truly consider the pains of hell, they would undergo any thing in this world, to gain the joys of Heaven.

O Brethren, let us now repent of our former sins and wickedness, that we may be found worthy to enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven by as true repentance as Peter did repent him of his sins from the bottom of his heart, with an unfeigned Repentance, for you must know true Repentance comes from above; Every good and perfect gift (saith St. James) comes from above, Jam. 1. 17. For all perfect gifts come from the Lord God of Heaven; Christ is our salvation, and hope for evermore, in our Souls and Bodies.

But when Peter had learnt to swear, and curse, and all to save his earthly life, not thinking of the world to come, Peter was afraid of the power of the High-Priest; and not thinking of the power of Christ, whose power is greater than the High-Priests: for he

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he shall come in the Glory of his Father, with all his Holy Angels with great Power and Glory, Peter not thinking of this Power, as if he had seriously considered the Power of Christ, he would not have denyed him by swearing, and cursing, and lying.

"Swearer! alas, though I did swear, yet I thought no harm. O fool! what blame bearing himself abused to his face by the reproachful calumnies of his base subjects, would abate of such an excuse? that whatsoever he speaketh with his mouth, yet he thought no harm in his heart, and shall God take this for a good answer? having told us before-hand, Deut. 23. 58, 59. If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this Law, that are written in this Book, that thou mayest fear this Glorious and fearful Name, the Lord thy God. Then the Lord will make thy Plagues wonderful, and the Plagues of thy Seed, even great Plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sickness.

"Besides, how frequently dost thou pollute and prophane Gods Name and our Saviours. The Jews greatly sinned in crucifying the Lord of Life but once, and that ignorantly, so Peter ignorantly denyed Christ, but will repent

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reminded him of that sin; but they are sinners: that thou dost commit every day in the night, every hour in the day, although thy Conscience checks thee for it; yet though thy Conscience be guilty, Repentance maketh Peace between God and your Conscience, for Christs sake; Amen.

And the Holy Spirit of grace hath rebuked thee for it a thousand and a thousand times: how dost thou expect to have Christ thy Redeemer and Advocate, when thy Conscience tells thee that thou hast seldom remembered him, but in thy Oaths to Blaspheme him; and oftener named him in thy Oaths and Curses, than in thy Prayers? Surely, if I did swear faith and Truth, this swearing made many sinful Souls fall into Hell head-long: and if Peter had not penitently repented, he had fallen into Hell-torments, where there is nothing but howling, gnashing of teeth, misery and lamenting for ever.

It is said in Levit. 19. 17. Thou shalt not hate thy Brother in thy heart, thou shalt in a wise rebuke him, and not suffer sin upon him. So Peter was rebuked of his Conscience, it tells him that he had wickedly denied his Lord and Master Jesus Christ: that is your gross ignorance of the Scriptures, the Scripture teacheth us to fear God: for

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God expressly forbids Swearing, and that upon pain of Damnation, James. 5. 12. My Brethren swear not, neither by Heaven, nor by Earth, nor by any other Oath; but let your yea be yea, and your nay be nay, lest you fall into Condemnation. First our Saviour Christ in his own person forbids it, Mat. 5. 34, 35, 36, 37. I say unto you, swear not at all, neither by Heaven, for it is God's Throne, nor by Earth, for it is his Foot-stool, nor by Jerusalem, for it is the City of the great King; neither shalt thou swear by thine head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black, but let your Communication be yea, yea, nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. And then the Apostle saith, Above all things my Brethren, swear not, neither by Heaven, nor by Earth, nor by any other Oath: but let your yea, be yea, and your nay be nay, lest you fall into Condemnation, Jam. 5. 12. Where mark the Emphasis in the first words, Above all things swear not, and the greater danger of it in the last words, lest you fall into Condemnation; for woe and sorrow will be the end. If the matter be light or vain, we must not swear at all: if weighty, then we may lawfully swear, as before a Magistrate, being called to it, when we must only use the Glorious name of

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Our God in an holy and religious manner,
as you may see in Deut. 6. 13. Isa. 45. 23.
and 65. 16. Jos. 23. 7. Exod. 23. Jer. 5. 7.
and the Reasons are weighty if we look into
them, for in swearing by any Creature what-
soever, we do invoke that Creature, and as-
cribe to it Divine worship; yea, whatsoever
we swear by, that we invoke both as our wit-
ness, surety, and judge, Heb. 16. and by con-
sequence desire it, by ascribing and communica-
ting unto it God's incommunicable attributes,
and his Omnipresence, and Omnisecency of
being every where present, and knowing the se-
cret thoughts and intentions of the Heart: and
likewise an Omnipotency, and as being Al-
mighty in Patronizing, Protecting, Defend-
ing, and Rewarding us for speaking of the
truth, or punishing us, if that we speak falsely:
All which are so particular to God, as that they
cannot any way be Communicated or Ascribed
to another: so that swearing by any of these
things, thou committest Idolatry in a high de-
gree, and thou spoilest and robbest God of his
Glorie, the most impious kind of theft: and in
a manner dethronest him, and makest an Idol
in his room: and as to swear by the Creature,
makes the sin more heinous; so the more mean
and vile the thing is which you swear by, as
by Fry, by Cock, and by Hares foot, and by

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these These, and such like Childish Oaths, which are so much in use by the ignorant and superstitious people, the greater is your sin in swearing such an Oath, because you ascribe that unto these the basest of Creatures which is only proper to God, namely to your heart, and to be a discerner of secret things; why else should you call that Creature as a witness unto your conscience, that you speak the truth and lye not, which only belongeth to God? and therefore the Lord calls it a forsaking of him, as you may see what he saith, Jer. 5. 7. How shall I spare thee for this? Thy Children hath forsaken me, and sworne by them that are no Gods. And to make it a small matter to forsake God, and to make a God of the Creature: will you believe the Prophet Amos? if you will, he saith, speaking of them that swore by the sin of Samaria, that they should fall and never rise again, Amos 8. 4. A terrible place to vain-swearers. But Peter fell, and rose again by faith. Neither are we to join any other with God in our Oaths, for in so doing, we make base Idols and filthy Creatures: for Peter wept sorrowfully for his sin and offence, which he had committed against Christ his Lord and Master, and because he repented, God granted him mercy and forgiveness of all his offences which he had committed.

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against him, by denying him with an Oath, cursing and lying; So that Peter's conscience told him, that he was a great sinner in doing, but he repented with a tender conscience, and he wept bitterly. Repentance goeth before Salvation, and Salvation worketh the Soules everlasting joy in the Kingdom of Heaven for evermore.

And a Maid saw him again, and began to say unto them that stood by, this is one of them, and he deny'd it again; and a little after, they that stood by, said again to Peter, surely thou art one of them, for thou art a Galilean, and thy speech agreeth thereto: but he began to curse and swear, saying, I know not this Man of whom you speak; and the second time the Cock crew, and Peter called to mind the words that Jesus said unto him, before the Cock Crow: twice, thou shalt deny me thrice: and he went out and wept bitterly. Peter's heart misgave him he sinned in so doing, and he wept bitterly: we have a command from God to shun all devices of evil men. S. Paul saith, Rom. 6. 23. For the Wages of sin is Death; but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Neither must we swear at all in our Duty Communication, if we will obey God's Command: as you may see, *Mat. 5. 34, 35, 36, 37. Jam.*

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37. *Jam.* 5. 12. And as it is in *Exod.* 23. 2. Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil. And *S. Paul's* everlasting rule is, *Rom.* 12. 2. Fashion not your selves according to this world, for this world passeth away, and the Glory thereof. For as *S. John* saith, Whosoever denyeth the Son, the same denyeth the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son, hath the Father. But Peter denied God the Son, then he must needs deny God the Father, and God the Holy Ghost: for as *Christ* saith, He that sinneth against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but he that sinneth against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him: neither shall there be any remission of sins for that poor Soul. 'Tis a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God, *Heb.* 10. 31. Stand in awe therefore, and sin not, *Psal.* 4. 4. 2 *Tim.* 2. 2. Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall. And therefore flee from youthful Lusts, for 'tis a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God. For the coming of our Lord *Jesus Christ* draweth nigh, when he shall come with his Mighty Angels in Glory, Honour, and Power, and Majesty, everlastingly to all.

Consider what hath been delivered, and the Lord give you understanding hearts in all things. Amen. FINIS.

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